

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Claim 33 has been amended to correct a minor informality, and not related to the patentability thereof. Claims 1-16 were previously cancelled, without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 17-38 are under consideration in the present application. Provided above, please find a claim listing indicating the claim amendments and current status of the claims on separate sheets so as to comply with the requirements set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.121. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

II. RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that the inventions in the claims are distinct from each other, and requires restriction to one of the following groups of inventions under 35 U.S.C. §121:

Group I, claims 17-20 and 34-38, drawn to an apparatus and method for press molding.

Group II, claims 21-24, drawn to an apparatus for press molding.

Group III, claims 25-28, drawn to an apparatus for press molding.

Group IV, claims 29-33, drawn to an apparatus for press molding.

Applicants hereby respectfully traverse the above alleged separate invention restriction requirement, as set forth in the Restriction Requirement. Indeed, Applicants respectfully assert that each of the alleged separate inventions identified by the Examiner above and as set forth in the Restriction Requirement should in no way require separate searches and consideration of different fields of research, and certainly

would not place any undue burden on the Examiner. For example, Groups I-IV all are drawn to an apparatus for press molding.

Thus, Applicants respectfully traverse this restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action, and request that it be withdrawn.

Irrespective of the apparently improper restriction requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group IV, i.e., claims 29-33, with traverse.

If the restriction requirement is maintained, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the non-elected claims in this application in one or more divisional applications claiming priority from the present application.

In view of the above, the Restriction Requirement contained in the Office Action should be withdrawn.

III. CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite the prosecution of this application if any issues remain outstanding.

Respectfully submitted,

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